

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00
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SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-12 MCE-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 EB-08
COME-00 CEA-01 FRB-01 DOE-11 SOE-02 AID-05 /093 W
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O P 231601Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 788
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USNATO
USNMR SHAPE
USINFRO WASHDC PRIORITY

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TAGS E.O. & SUBJECT ADDED)

USEEC, USOECD, USINFO FOR IOP/M, IPS/PE, IBS/PN, IEU

E.O. 11653; N/A
TAGS: PEPR, TU, US, OVIP
SUBJ: NIMETZ VISIT: PRESS COVERAGE FEBRUARY 23

REF: ANKARA 1360 (DTG 221225Z FEB 78)

1. SUMMARY: AMONG THE HIGH LEVEL DIPLOMATIC CONTACTS TAKING
PLACE IN ANKARA THIS WEEK, DEPARTMENT COUNSELOR NIMETZ'
CONTACTS WITH MFA SHARE TOP BILLING IN PRESS WITH ARRIVAL
OF LIBYAN PRIMIN JALLOUD. TOPICS STRESSED IN PRESS REPORTING
OF NIMETZ VISIT INCLUDE:
-- DIVISION OF AFTERNOON SESSION FEBRUARY 22 INTO MILITARY
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AND ECONOMIC-FINANCIAL GROUPS.
-- TURKISH PROPOSALS FOR ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE.
-- POSSIBILITY THAT DCA WILL BE PASSED AND ARMS EMBARGO LIFTED.
--REVIVED CHARGES ABOUT THE SO-CALLED ECONOMIC EMBARGO, AND
-- SECRETARY VANCE'S TETIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE INTERNATIONAL
RELATIONS COMMITTEE. END SUMMARY.

2. IN ADDITION TO LISTING AMERICAN PARTICIPANTS IN THE TALKS, PRESS REPORTING HIGHLIGHTS THE FACT THAT THE TURKISH DELEGATION IS MADE UP OF OFFICIALS FROM THE MFA, MINISTRY OF DEFENSE, MINISTRY OF FINANCE, TURKISH GENERAL STAFF (TGS) AND STATE PLANNING ORGANIZATION (SPO). IT IS ALSO WIDELY REPORTED THAT AFTER A MEETING OF ALL PARTICIPANTS IN THE MORNING, SEPARATE MILITARY AND ECONOMIC-FINANCIAL SESSIONS WERE HELD IN THE AFTERNOON. WHILE SPECIFICS WERE REPORTEDLY NOT TAKEN UP DURING THE MORNING MEETING, THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE AND TGS REPRESENTATIVES ALLEGEDLY HAD A PREPARED LIST OF TURKISH DEFENSE REQUIREMENTS READY FOR PRESENTATION. DURING THE FEBRUARY 22 SESSIONS, ACCORDING TO LEFTIST POLITIKA, THE TURKS TOLD THE AMERICANS THEY DO NOT WANT "GRANT MILITARY AID" BUT "ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE".

3. MILLIYET REPORTS THAT DURING THE MORNING BOTH SIDES AGREED THAT IT IS NOT DESIRABLE FOR U.S.-TURKISH RELATIONS TO BE RESTRICTED TO DEFENSE, AND THAT RELATIONS SHOULD BE RAISED TO A NORMAL LEVEL BETWEEN TWO ALLIES. THE TURKISH NEGOTIATORS ALSO ARE SAID TO HAVE SUGGESTED LOOKING INTO THE POSSIBILITY OF NEW AREAS OF COOPERATION LIKE THOSE CURRENTLY EXISTING IN THE DEFENSE AREA.

4. AMONG THE PROPOSALS FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION SUGGESTED BY THE TURKS, ACCORDING TO MILLIYET AND SEVERAL OTHER DAILIES, IS FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR ENERGY PROJECTS. MILLIYET ALSO REPORTS THAT THE TURKISH NEGOTIATORS FROM THE MFA AND SPO, PRIOR TO THEIR MEETINGS

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ON FEBRUARY 22, AGREED TO THE FOLLOWING PROPOSALS:

A. TURKEY HAS RECEIVED LOANS FROM INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL ORGANIZATIONS FOR 10 PROJECTS WHICH WILL REQUIRE AN ADDITIONAL \$100 MILLION TO COMPLETE. THE U.S. CAN HELP IN SECURING THIS ADDITIONAL FINANCING BY CONTACTING THESE ORGANIZATIONS.

B. THE U.S. WILL BE ASKED TO ASSESS AND PROVIDE ASSISTANCE FOR FIVE OR SIX MOST NECESSARY IRRIGATION AND ENERGY PROJECTS. SEVERAL SMALL LEFTIST PAPERS ALSO NOTE THAT THE TURKISH NEGOTIATORS WILL PROPOSE THAT THE U.S. ORDER INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS ALLEGEDLY UNDER ITS CONTROL TO ASSIST TURKEY.

5. DURING THE MORNING SESSION, THE NIMETZ GROUP DID NOT IMMEDIATELY ADDRESS DEFENSE QUESTIONS, SUCH AS THE EMBARGO AND THE DCA, BUT SAID THAT THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION WILL TAKE SOME STEPS NEXT MONTH TO IMPROVE THE SITUATION, ACCORDING TO MILLIYET. HURRIYET DEVOTES VIRTUALLY ITS ENTIRE REPORTING ON THE NIMETZ VISIT TO THE ISSUE OF THE ARMS EMBARGO AND CHANCES FOR PASSAGE OF THE DCA. HURRIYET STATES THAT THE AMERICAN GROUP REPEATED ITS "HOPES" AND "WISHES" THAT THE ARMS EMBARGO WILL BE LIFTED. DIPLOMATIC CIRCLES IN ANKARA, HOWEVER, REPORTEDLY SAY IT IS UNLIKELY THAT EITHER THE OFFICIAL ARMS EMBARGO OR THE UNOFFICIAL ECONOMIC EMBARGO WILL BE REMOVED IN 1978. HURRIYET REPORTS THAT SOURCES CLOSE TO THE AMERICAN

EMBASSY ARE UNABLE TO SAY "THAT ASSESSMENT IS WRONG". HURRIYET ALSO QUOTES A DIPLOMATIC SOURCE IN ANKARA AS SAYING THAT THE ARMS EMBARGO CANNOT BE LIFTED DURING 1978. ACCORDING TO THIS SOURCE, THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION IS TRYING TO PUSH THE PANAMA CANAL TREATY AND ENERGY PROGRAM THROUGH CONGRESS THIS SPRING. IT CANNOT AFFORD TO ANTAGONIZE THE GREEK LOBBY UNTIL THESE MEASURES ARE PASSED. SO, LIFTING OF THE EMBARGO IS UNLIKELY DURING THE FIRST PART OF THE YEAR. IN THE FALL, ELECTIONS ARE SCHEDULED AND CONGRESSMEN WILL BE RELUCTANT TO TAKE ANY CONTROVERSIAL STANCE.

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O P 231601Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
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USEEC USOECD USINFO FOR IOP/M IPS/PE IBS/PN IEU

6. THE HURRIYET LEAD STORY, HEADLINED, "WE UNDERSTAND, CARTER IS USING CONGRESS AS AN EXCUSE FOR THE ARMS EMBARGO, BUT WHY ISN'T THE ECONOMIC EMBARGO LIFTED" SPOTLIGHTS THE "ECONOMIC EMBARGO" ISSUE. MASS APPEAL HURRIYET REPORTS THAT BECAUSE THE ECONOMIC EMBARGO IS UNOFFICIAL, THE SUBJECT CANNOT BE RAISED IN THE CURRENT MEETINGS. HURRIYET ASSERTS THAT THE AMERICANS DENY THE EXISTENCE OF THE EMBARGO WHICH, IN ANKARA, IS BELIEVED TO BE DESIGNED TO KEEP TURKEY UNDER CONTROL BY EXERTING ECONOMIC PRESSURE. TURKISH OFFICIALS REPORTEDLY THINK THAT WITHOUT JUSTIFICATION INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL ORGANIZATIONS ALLEGEDLY UNDER

AMERICAN CONTROL AND WESTERN COUNTRIES ARE CONTINUING THE ECONOMIC EMBARGO. AT THE SAME TIME THE AMERICANS JUSTIFY THE ARMS EMBARGO BY SAYING THAT CONGRESS IS AT FAULT. BECAUSE OF THIS AMERICAN
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ATTITUDE, THE GOT, ACCORDING TO HURRIYET, HAS DECIDED TO GO AHEAD WITH THE NEW DEFENSE CONCEPT AND REVIEW ITS RELATIONS WITH NATO.

7. LEFTIST CUMHURIYET SAYS THAT THE NIMETZ CALL ON FONMIN OKEUN, SCHEDULED FOR THE AFTERNOON OF FEBRUARY 22, HAS BEEN POSTPONED UNTIL FEBRUARY 23, WHEN NIMETZ IS ALSO EXPECTED TO SEE PRIMIN ECEVIT.

8. REPORTING OF SECRETARY VANCE'S TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE WHICH APPEARED FIRST IN TERCUNAN FEBRUARY 22 (REFTEL) IS EXPANDED UPON IN SEVERAL PAPERS FEBRUARY 23. SOURCING THE STORY TO UPI, A NUMBER OF PAPERS WRITE THAT SECRETARY VANCE SAID THE USG REMAINS LOYAL TO THE DCAS SIGNED WITH GREECE AND TURKEY. HE REPORTEDLY ADDED THAT THE ARMS EMBARGO HAS BEEN EFFECTIVE TO AN EXTENT, BUT NOW THE QUESTION IS WHETHER OR NOT TO LIFT THE EMBARGO. THESE QUESTIONS ARE EXPECTED TO BE DISCUSSED IN DETAIL WHEN THE TWO DCAS COME UP IN A HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING IN MARCH, COMMENTED SECRETARY VANCE, ACCORDING TO THE PRESS.

9. SENSATIONALIST GUNAYDIN PROMINENTLY REPORTS THE ALLEGED GOT FEELING THAT THE EMBARGO MUST BE LIFTED AND THAT TURKEY CANNOT WAIT MUCH LONGER. THE GUNAYDIN STORY SAYS THE GOT IS INFORMING THE NIMETZ GROUP THAT IT WANTS A NEW STATUS FOR AMERICAN BASES IN TURKEY WHICH WILL NOT HARM TURKEY'S NEW FOREIGN POLICY. IN THIS REGARD, SMALL DAILY, LEFTIST BARIS REPORTS THAT THE TURKISH NEGOTIATORS WILL SUGGEST AN ADDITIONAL PROTOCOL TO THE DCA AIMED BOTH AT PROVIDING ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE AND PROTECTING TURKEY'S INTERESTS.

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